

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**BED SKIRT FASTENER ASSEMBLY****TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates to bed skirts, and more particularly to a bed skirt fastener assembly for allowing easy adjustment of the drop of the bed skirt to match the height of a bed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Bed skirts for beds, also sometimes called dust ruffles, have traditionally been permanently assembled in one piece consisting of a flat sheeting material placed between the box spring and mattress, and skirting material permanently attached to the flat sheeting material. This arrangement generally requires the removal of the mattress in order to properly place and align the flat sheet and permanently attached skirting material, and then to replacement and adjustment of the mattress on top of the box spring without disturbing the bed skirt assembly. If the skirting becomes soiled, the mattress must be removed in order to access the skirt for cleaning.

[0003] A need has thus arisen for a bed skirt fastener that is easily positionable on a bed, and which provides adjustability of the drop to match the height of the bed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] In accordance with the present invention, a mounting bracket for positioning a bed skirt adjacent a bed is provided. The bracket includes a support member adapted to be inserted between the top of a box spring and the bottom of a mattress. A frame is attached to the support member for mounting a fastener member. The fastener member mates with a fastener on the bed skirt, such that the fastener member is moveable to positions between the top of the mattress and the bottom of the box spring.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] For a more complete understanding of the present invention and for further advantages thereof, reference is now made to the following Description of the Preferred Embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying Drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of the present mounting bracket including a fastener member in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the present fastener member illustrated in Fig. 1 removed from the mounting bracket;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the present mounting bracket shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken generally along sectional lines 4 – 4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of a bed skirt;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a portion of a box spring and mattress combination illustrating placement of the present mounting bracket;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a portion of a box spring and mattress combination illustrating an additional use of the present mounting bracket;

Fig. 8 is perspective view of a portion of a box spring and mattress combination including a bed frame illustrating a use of the present mounting bracket;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a portion of a box spring and mattress combination including a bed frame illustrating a further use of the present mounting bracket; and

Fig. 10 is a front elevational view of a box spring and mattress combination illustrating the use of the present mounting bracket where a bed is supported on a non-level surface.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0006] Referring simultaneously to Figs. 1 - 4, the present mounting bracket for positioning a bed skirt adjacent a bed is illustrated, and is generally identified by the numeral 10. Mounting bracket 10 includes a support member 12 which is adapted to be inserted between the top of a box spring and the bottom of a mattress. Support member 12 includes a frame 14 including a track 14a and 14b. Track 14a and 14b of frame 14 mount a fastener member 16. As illustrated in Fig. 3, fastener member 16 mounts within track 14a and 14b of frame 14 for slideable movement therein.

[0007] Fastener member 16 comprises a rack or ratchet having a plurality of spaced apart teeth 18 and spaced apart grooves 20. Grooves 20 and teeth 18 engage a detent 22 disposed within frame 14 for maintaining fastener member 16 in a predetermined position within frame 14. Fastener member 16 is slideable within frame 14 to positions above and below support member 12.

[0008] Fastener member 16 includes attachment members 24 and 26. Attachment members 24 and 26 receive a fastener 28. Fastener 28 may comprise, for example, a hook and loop style fastener, which may be adhesively adhered to attachment members 24 and 26. Hook and loop style fastener 28 is shown for illustrative purposes only, it being understood that numerous other types of fasteners may be attached to attachment members 24 and 26 in accordance with the present invention.

[0009] Attachment members 24 and 26 mount fastener 28 to fastener member 16 such that fastener member 16 can position fastener 28 above and below support member 12 by selectively engaging ones of teeth 18 and a groove 20 with detent 22.

[0010] Support member 12 includes projections 30 and 32 (Fig. 4) to provide additional frictional engagement between support member 12 and a mattress and box spring, respectively.

[0011] Fig. 5 illustrates the back 38b of a bed skirt 40. Attached to back 38b of bed skirt 40 is a fastener 42 in the form of hook and loop style fasteners which is attached to bed skirt 40 using adhesive or other fasteners. The present bed skirt fastener assembly includes a plurality of mounting brackets 10 and a bed skirt 40 having fasteners, such as, for example, fasteners 42. It is understood that other types of fasteners may be attached to the back 38b of a bed skirt 40, and fastener 42 is shown for illustrative purposes only. Fasteners 28 and 42 may also include, for example, a hook and ring.

[0012] Referring simultaneously to Figs. 6 and 7, a bed 50 is illustrated. Bed 50 includes a mattress 52 supported on a box spring 54. Bed 50 is supported in a frame (not shown) for supporting bed 50 above a floor. Bed 50 includes a top 52a and bottom 52b. Box spring 54 includes a top 54a and bottom 54b.

[0013] Mounting bracket 10 is adapted to be inserted between mattress 52 and box spring 54, such that support member 12 contacts bottom 52b of mattress 52 and top 54a of box spring 54. Frame 14 is positioned adjacent to mattress 52 and box spring 54. Support member 12 is frictionally held between mattress 52 and box spring 54 without the use of additional attachment devices.

[0014] In order to attach a bed skirt 40 adjacent to bed 50, a plurality of mounting brackets 10 are utilized, and are disposed around the circumference of bed 50. The number of mounting brackets 10 required to attach a bed skirt 40 adjacent to bed 50 is determined by, such as, for example, the weight of bed skirt 40, fabric type of bed skirt 40, and size of bed 50. In order to mount bed skirt 40 to mounting brackets 10, Fastener 42 of bed skirt 40 is attached to fastener 28 disposed on fastener member 16. Fastener member 16 is then slid within track 14a and 14b of frame 14 to a position based upon the drop of the bed skirt 40 so that the bottom of bed skirt 40 lies adjacent to the floor supporting bed 50. The plurality of grooves 20 and teeth 18 in fastener member 16 allow for the vertical height adjustment of bed skirt 40. The position of bed skirt 40 with respect to box spring 54 and the height of box spring 54 off the supporting floor is determined by which pair of teeth 18 and groove 20 engage detent 22. It therefore can be seen that the present mounting bracket accommodates bed skirts having variable height dimensions, length dimensions and beds positioned above a floor by variable amounts.

[0015] Referring to Fig. 7, in instances where the height of bed skirt 40 is relatively large or where bed 50 is supported in a frame relatively close to the supporting floor, mounting brackets 10 are mounted to a bed 50, such that fastener member 16 is disposed adjacent to mattress 52 as illustrated in Fig. 7, showing the position of mounting bracket 10a instead of being positioned adjacent to box spring 54 in the position of mounting bracket 10b. In this manner, bed skirt 40 having a longer drop can be attached to a fastener member 16 which is positioned above top surface 54a of box spring 54.

[0016] Referring to Fig. 8, bed 50 is illustrated as being mounted to a frame, generally identified by the numeral 70 having rails 72 and bed post 74. Mounting bracket 10 allows for the positioning of a bed skirt 40 adjacent to rail 72 in a manner previously described. By positioning support member 12 such that frame 14 is positioned adjacent to rail 72, a horizontal accommodation is made by mounting bracket 10, such that supporting member 12 bridges the gap 76 between bed 50 and rail 72 of frame 70.

[0017] Fig. 9 illustrates bed 50 positioned within frame 70 where gap 76 is greater than illustrated in Fig. 8. Where frame 70 positions bed 50 close to the floor or for a bed skirt 40 having a large height, bed skirt 40 can be mounted to fastener member 16 in a higher position than illustrated in Fig. 8 to provide the desired drop.

[0018] Fig. 10 illustrates the use of the present mounting bracket 10 for vertically adjusting the drop of a bed skirt 40 at multiple vertical heights along a bed 50 in the instance where bed 50 is supported on a floor having a slope. In this manner, bed skirt 40 can be aligned with the slope of the floor so that there is no gap between bed skirt 40 and the floor. As illustrated in Fig. 10, a supporting floor for bed 50 slopes from left to right in a downward fashion such that bed skirt 40 is supported further from the floor by fastener member 16a and closer to floor by fastener member 16c, and supported between those two positions by fastener member 16b. Each fastener member 16a, 16b and 16c, allows bed skirt 40 to be independently positioned along the length of bed skirt 40 with respect to box spring 54.

[0019] The present invention provides for a bed skirt fastener assembly in which the bed skirt may be continuous for positioning along a bed or where a bed skirt is fabricated in segments or in panels where bed skirts would be separately mounted to a bed along the bed sides and the bed foot.

[0020] Other alteration and modification of the invention will likewise become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the present disclosure, and it is intended that the scope of the invention disclosed herein be limited only by the broadest interpretation of the appended claims to which the inventor is legally entitled.